

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Amended) A chewing gum composition including ~~an~~ a water insoluble abrasive filler substance, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said abrasive filler substance is selected from the group consisting of abrasive silica, calcium carbonate, talc, kaolin and mixtures thereof and is encapsulated in ~~micro-spheres~~ microspheres of cross-linked alginate.
11. (Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the said ~~micro-spheres~~ microspheres have an equivalent average diameter lying between 0.6 and 1.5 mm.

12. (Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the said ~~micro-spheres~~-microspheres have an equivalent average diameter lying between  
1 and 1.2 mm.

13. (Amended) A chewing gum composition according Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the said ~~micro-spheres~~-microspheres are present in quantities from 1% to 10% by weight  
referred to the weight of the chewing gum.

14. (Amended) A chewing gum composition according Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the said ~~abrasive~~ filler substance is present in particles having dimensions expressed as  
equivalent average diameter, lying between 2 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15. (Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the said ~~abrasive~~ filler substance has a particle size lying between 6 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

16. (Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the said ~~micro-spheres~~-microspheres comprise from 80% to 99% by weight of abrasive  
filler substance.

17. (Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the said micro-spheres-microspheres further include ingredients chosen from flavorings, sweeteners, active agents and mixtures thereof.